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DENISE HAMILTON

See *"Spotlight On"* Inside

NEW JERSEY EDITION

BLACK MIRROR NEWS

True stories that aren't in the dailies

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SPOTLIGHT ON

Vocalist DENISE HAMILTON, *(on our cover)* performs primarily throughout the tri-state area. Her performances consist of a variety of entertainment sites, such as hotels, parks, banquet halls, jazz festivals, churches, schools, clubs, resorts, senior citizen centers, political/social events, and correctional facilities. In all locations Denise is acclaimed for her new and refreshing singing style. Many listeners have stated they are delightfully entranced with Denise's purity of tone and vocal range. Her styles have often been compared to such great artists as Nancy Wilson, Minnie Ripperton, and Phyllis Hyman. In addition to winning several Districtwide Talent Shows, Denise has appeared on T.V. shows known as Nightmoves, Primetime at the Peppermint, and was featured on such radio stations as WNJR and Jazz 88 FM.

In addition to singing and teaching, Ms. Hamilton has for several years been the primary stage and prop designer for Whitney Houston Academy's numerous creative and performing arts extravaganzas with a strong background in music, art, and education.

Denise's most recent goal is to publish a series of children's books. She is a strong believer of the slogan: "If you can believe it, you can achieve it!" Thus far, Denise states her road has been filled with many exciting turns and successes.

POLLY TICKS...

Is he or isn't he?

Is Mimms Hackett the Mayor of Orange, N.J., a closet Republican or not? Although Mr. Hackett is a registered Democrat, he has not been acting like one.

It is generally known that Mayor Hackett is employed by Republican, Essex County Exec. James Treffinger at an annual salary of %54,000, but, what is not as widely known is that Mayor Hackett was seen escorting Republican Governor Christie Whitman around Orange, just days before the 1997 Gubernatorial election in which Gov. Whitman defeated Democrat Jim McGreevy. But, according to Mayor Hackett, that was just a coincidence!! "The Governor wanted to visit an urban school," (the schools in Trenton and Camden must have closed(?)).

Those who know James Treffinger are certain that he didn't give Mayor Hackett a $54,000 job because he valued his opinion on matters critical to the critical to the operation of Essex County.

What then does Mr. Treffinger expect from Mayor Hackett?

Mr. Treffinger announced his intention to seek another term as Essex County Executive, this fall, although when he narrowly defeated Cardell Cooper in 1994, he promised not to seek re-election.

It is no secret that any successful Republican candidate for the position of Essex County Executive must have tremendous support from registered Democrats voters (Democrats out number Republicans 3 to 1 in Essex County).

In particular the republican Party must count on a sizeable number of Black Democrats either not to vote on election day, or, if they do, to cast their votes for the Republican candidate.

November 1998, is the General Election for Essex County Executive. Mr. Treffinger is being opposed by former Newark Mayor, Kenneth Gibson, a Democrat.

Oops! Just another coincidence Mayor Hackett!

By D.W.G.

A guest editorial –
From the desk of Catherine F. Willis, chair
East Orange Democratic County Committee

TO THE VOTERS

Democratic voters, thank you. Thank you for taking the time to come out and vote in the June primary. It was through your effort that the Democratic Party was victorious. Remember, we have just begun. Although, each election is exceptionally important, we need everyone to register to vote.

As democrats you know, our work is not complete and we have more work to do. Consider the primary a beginning of our community's united strength. Kenneth Gibson can become the next county executive of Essex County, if we show the full measure of our voting strength. Yes, the primary is behind us, but as we look to the November 3rd general election, one thing is abundantly clear, Gibson's election is a chance of a lifetime. It is a chance for us to demonstrate our solid and united support. Locked arms; unbreakable strength.

The democratic party is about family. The democratic party is about citizens rebuilding our city. We encourage the entire community to come out and celebrate with the Family Day sponsored by the Zachary Turner Civic Association and the East Orange Recreation Department, whenever the event usually takes place at Oval Park located on Eaton Place and North Grove in East Orange.

Planned activities include: a bid whist tournament, bingo, basketball and softball games. Live entertainment with performances by Blue Magic's Ted Wizard Mills, Soul Generation, The Escorts and gospel sounds. The event was open to the public. Admission is always free.

If you would like more information about what citizens are doing to rebuild East Orange or need voter registration forms, contact the East Orange Democratic headquarters at (973) 678-6544.

... SEE PAGE 4 FOR LETTERS & COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

LETTERS

Well, we finally got around to opening our mail, and here's what we found – *(with apologies to our correspondents)* take a look:

Honorable Sharpe James
Mayor of Newark, City Hall
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Mr. Mayor:
RE: Attached Petition

My name is Emerson Bey, a Newark Special Police Officer for the Newark Housing Authority. My badge # 1006 and I reside at 68 Lenox Street, Newark. First, we the Newark Special Police officers, want to thank you wholeheartedly for your support in getting our work contract approved. Please be sure, you **can** count on my vote and the rest of my family for support.

Second, enclosed you will find a signed petition from all the residents of Lenox Street. We know at this time, you are very busy with the campaign to even address this issue. However, at your earliest opportunity please take a few moments to listen to what the residents are requesting in the near future.

Thanking you for bringing back Newark into the forefront. If we can be of further service please feel free to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,

rbh/eb

April 16, 1998

There are specific reasons why one votes for a candidate, other than friendship or political expedience: qualifications, experience, a track record, contrast, and that "something" called "energy". In 1994, I was a candidate for Mayor in order to address specific issues. The public believed then that Mayor James was the best candidate, and he remained in office. For the upcoming May 12, 1998, election, I am supporting Mayor Sharpe James in his re-election bid. I ask that you too give him your support. Although the other two Mayoral candidates each bring something to the table, if one looks at the abovementioned criteria for voting, Mayor James is the logical choice.

It is true that there remains work to be done here in our city, but much has been accomplished under Mayor James' helm, and he has shown his commitment to the community (refurbished islands, more visible and responsive policing, stronger code enforcement, new housing with ratables, increased stimulation of the economy creating employment opportunities for the residents, and much more). While the Mayor and I do not agree on every issue, I believe that he should be given an additional four years to implement the changes about which he speaks. He has already forged the necessary partnerships essential for the city to thrive as an inner city and as a city on the verge of playing a major international role in trade and finance.

There is a time when one puts aside personal agendas and ignores personalities in order to come to the table with solutions promoting positive change. There is a time to look at the "big" picture. Now is that time. For the residents, and the city, there is a great deal at stake. Now is not the time to be confused. As a city wide activist who has **always** placed the community first, after God and family, regardless of perception or personal consequences, and as one who has **always** told it like it is, regardless of it being politically acceptable, or not, I ask that you have your constituents vote to keep Mayor James in office. For those who ask what promise has, to **me**, been made, I answer: the same as that made to the community-at-large: the next four years are to be the best for our city with the continued revitalization of our neighborhoods along with that of the downtown and commercial sector. Let us help him to keep this promise.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Colleen B, District Leader South - 28

Distortions on salaries

The Star Ledger is fond of criticizing the Newark City Council, but once again your newspaper has failed to do its own homework. In a June 11 article by George Jordan and Jesse Drucker ("Newark Council Winners Put Perks on Notice", the authors make a number of allegations that are absolutely false. They are "...nine council members currently earn at least $76,400. The balance cited by you is for unreimbursed expenses. You understand full well the difference between salary and expenses, but have chosen to lump them together for purposes of exaggeration. Secondly, we are not even near the best-paid elected municipal officials in the country. With just a quick review of council salaries in other cities, I have identified nine cities that pay their council members more.

Council salaries include:

Los Angeles, $98,069; Detroit, $62,000; Philadelphia, $65,000; Seattle, $75,505; Minneapolis, $67,763; Washington, $80,605; Chicago, $75,000; Boston, $54,500; Portland, $77,054.

The Ledger said there is "no ceiling" for beepers, cellular telephones, long distance telephone charges, flowers, gifts, printing, office equipment, stationery and other office supplies.

Wrong. There is a firm, fixed budget for all these items and it places a strict ceiling on what can be spent. Council members receive "full retirement benefits after 10 years of service." After 10 years or service, pension contributions are fully vested. You know vesting has nothing to do with full retirement benefits.

Full retirement benefits can be paid after 25 years of service and only after the retiree has reached age 62. The recent municipal council elections provided a signal that the voters were concerned about the council's spending. And it is appropriate for the council to respond to that message. But The Star-Ledger does a serious disservice to this discussion by publishing inaccurate and inflammatory information.

Donald Tucker,
city councilman

PUBLIC NOTICE

ROUTE21TSM

Notice is hereby given that the New Jersey Department of Transportation will conduct a public hearing on the Environmental Assessment/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the proposed Rt. 21 roadway and intersection improvement project from Green Street to Passaic Street including the replacement of N.J. Transit Railroad Bridge #7.56, all within the City of Newark, Essex County. The public hearing will be held on Thursday, July 30,1998 from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Offices (NJTPA), One Newark Center, 17th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

The purpose of the public hearing is to insure that the public has the opportunity to have their comments, suggestions, and any objections to the project entered into the hearing record. Additionally, the hearing will present the results of cultural resource studies conducted by the Department for this project. Cultural resource studies have identified several historic architectural and archaeological sites in the proposed Route 21 project area that are on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Federal Highway Administration and the N.J. Historic Preservation Office both concur that some of the identified cultural resources will be adversely affected by the proposed project. Efforts have been, and will continue to be, made to find prudent and feasible alternatives to avoid or mitigate the adverse affects.

Department representatives will make a presentation of the project details and take public comments for the record. Written statements may be given instead of oral testimony. All such statements must be submitted to the Department of Transportation, Office of Community Relations, Box 600, Trenton, N.J. 08625 by Monday, August, 31, 1998, the closing date of the hearing record.

Concurrently with the public hearing, in an adjacent area to the hearing room, an informal information center will be held at which displays and information will be provided. Department representatives will be available at this informal meeting to receive comments and answer questions.

The Environmental Assessment/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation has been printed and distributed for public review at the following locations:

The Offices of the Essex County Executive Director – Hall of Records; City of Newark Department of Engineering; City of Newark Public Library Main Branch; and the following library branches: Branch Brook, North End, Roseville and Van Buren

Copies of the environmental document are also available at: New Jersey Department of Transportation Bureau of Environmental Services, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Box 600, Trenton, N.J. 08625 and, Federal Highway Administration, 840 Bear Tavem Road, Suite 310, Trenton, N.J. 08625

Copies will also be available for review at the public hearing.

For further information or if you are physically challenged and require assistance in participating in either the public hearing or the informal information center, please contact Don Bates, NJDOT Office of Community Relations at (609) 530-2110.

Eric LaSalle of NBC's E.R.; singer Michael Bolton; Actress Lyn Whitfield; and CBS' Ed Bradley strut their stuff at the Essence Awards.

photos by Felix Middleton

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FALLING LEAVES

WILLIAM JACKSON SR.
REAL ESTATE AGENT
Mr. Jackson pursued a career in various business ventures and real estate. In 1961, he became the first licensed black real estate broker in Middlesex County. He was the founder of William Jackson and Associates, Inc. and the Jackson School of Business. Mr. Jackson was a World War II veteran.

ANEATHA TODD
A voice for Newarkers
Mrs. Todd, a former Newark teacher whose leadership skills put her at the forefront of many issues affecting the city's African American community When the College of Medicine and Dentistry, which later became UMDNJ, was at odds with the surrounding community, as it frequently was in the 1960s and 1970s, Mrs. Todd was at the center of it all. As a member of the school's review committee, she vigorously opposed health experiments which she felt exploited African Americans.

Mrs. Todd inspired people to learn about economic development and start their own businesses. Over the years, Mrs. Todd received many awards for community service to many civic and charitable groups.

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TUCSON, ARIZONA – Catherine and Herbert Killiebrew, celebrating their 50th Anniversary, were the guests of Mary and Dicky Thomas at their beautiful home in Tucson. Dicky Thomas was formerly the left hand guitar player with Newark's Piccadilly Pipers, Don Ho and the late Jackie Wilson. The Thomas' have lived in Tucson, Arizona almost a lifetime.

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STARS ON PARADE

PROUD PARENTS– Jada Pinkett & Will Smith show their love at the recent Essence Awards.

photos by Felix Middleton

RAP ARTIST – Puff Daddy makes the scene at the Essence Music Awards.

★★★★★★★★★

REGISTER NOW – TO VOTE FOR

Kenneth A. Gibson

Candidate for Essex County Executive

NOVEMBER 3RD, 1998

AFTER HOURS AFTER HOURS...

Sisters, sisters, were the supporters of **Dorothy Hazzard**, the new author of the book *"She's Been Blessed"*. Among the group were **Barbara Pettiford**, **Kathie Shorts**, **Vickie Bellamy** and **Jo Ann Brown**... Folks are still asking about **Gene Thompson**, the lawyer, who has been seriously ill. Well, he's up and walking around the Branch Brook Park, getting his exercise... People are also talking about **Mrs. Steward** selling out her share of the **Peppermint Lounge** – which they say was over seventy percent... Priory's **Chase Jackson** married off her only son a couple of weeks ago, and the club crowd missed her tantilizing voice over the mike – smiles... **Sadiq Mitchell** with all her friends on a vacation up at Martha Vineyard for a complete week in the sun and and eating lobsters – smiles... **Harold Woods** having the **"Pace Setters,"** meeting t his home on Keer Ave – it brought out all the members, from all over. They're getting ready for a summer or flal affair... **Robert Treat Hotel** has a roof party every Wednesday from 6 p.m. until? Beginning to have folks like **Faula**, **Mitzy** and **Bettie White** whisper about the happenings... People are talking about **Cafe Carol**, which will prove this winter to be the "new Bridge Club," because of the old/new crowd gathering there – smiles... **Don King**, the fight promoter, is always in the news – yet the homies know he's always a giver not a taker. King has set up a $100,000 Educational Fund as a memorial to the slain brother, James Boyd Jr.... *The Black Mirror News* salutes **Ms. Jane Smith**, who has been selected to succeed **Mrs. Dorothy Height**, who for 40 years was president of **National Council of Negro Women**.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

WEDNESDAYS IN JULY/AUGUST– It's love & dance time on the Roof Top at the Robert Treat Hotel, 50 Park Place, Newark

MON. AUG. 3RD – MEN OF ESSEX 38th Annual Amateur Golf Tournament at Maplewood Country Club, 28 Baker Street, Maplewood (973) 762-2100

SUN., AUG. 9TH–THE PUERTO RICAN STATE PARADE The "Hispanic" American Chamber of Commerce of Essex County Health Fair at Branch Brook Park 2 PM until

SUN., AUGUST 16TH–THE BORINGUEN LIONS CLUB PICNIC AT TOMAHAWK LAKE

THURS., AUG. 20TH– A TRIP TO MOMOUTH RACETRACK, Oceanport, NJ. with The Human & Civil Rights Association of New Jersey 25th Anniversary Fundraiser. Lunch wil lbe served. Tickets $55, For additional informaiton, call (752) 293-1157.

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8 Guess Who Invites You to Church?
9 Guess Who Got Married?
10 Guess Who Got Divorced?
11 Guess Who Got Engaged?
12 Guess Who Had a Baby?
13 Guess Who's Thinking of You?
14 Guess Who Wants to be Your Valentine?
15 Guess Who's Glad You Were Born?
16 Guess Who Missed Your Birthday?
17 Guess Who Invites You to a Movie?
18 Guess Who Wants You to be His?
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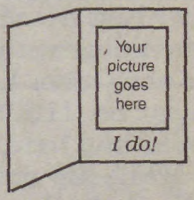

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THE SHADOW KNOWS...

If you think for a minute that *The Shadow* is asleep, think again, *The Shadow* sees everything and tells all. Like last week when that old man on Grove St. in East Orange thought he was slick, picking up that young girl at the corner of William St. and heading for a motel on Rt. 22. She wasn't so dumb though, she made him feed her and take her to Bradley's for a dress first – and that's more than he has done for his wife in the last twenty years. She's making car payments out of the little bit of money she makes from her day care job... Why are so many people out in the street begging for money? I have never seen so many strong young men asking if you have any "spare change" or a cigarette. I told one the other day that there is no such thing as "spare change", I need all that I can get my hands on try getting a "spare job"... There's a certain young sister who thinks all of the men who see her, wants her, and she might be right – she has all of the things that makes you a superstar – pretty face, nice hair, big boobs and a heavy duty bootie. The only thing she doesn't have is a J.O.B. and I don't think she has ever tried to find one... *The Shadow* hopes you are watching your back because every best friend is not *your* best friend. Remember, friends expect you to share things with them this can also include your girl or your man. Like that cute couple on Clinton Ave. near So. 11th St. in Newark. He thinks she is all his all the time, but *The Shadow* knows differently. While he's out on the corner working his "job" as a chemical salesman, she is also selling her goods to a lot of men in the area... *The Shadow* sees that the young girl's skirts are getting shorter and shorter these days and as a result we now know who has knocked knees and "heavy duty" booties... The fellows are still riding up and down the streets all night in flashy cars with no money to go into the clubs – and if they do go inside the "repo man" is waiting outside to make them New Jersey's newest pedestrians... A warning to Miss T.M. on So. 17th St. in Newark: stop what you are doing now! He ain't worth it – he'll never leave his wife for you in a million years. And remember, men only leave home for another woman on soap operas – get real, and stop dreaming . And as for you, mister, stop leading the girl on – telling her your wife doesn't understand you, the only thing she doesn't understand is how you can be out in the street every night with the boys. You better look out 'cause she just might call up 'Tyrone'.

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